

MINERVA TEICHERT

- ★ **Born August 28, 1888**
- ★ **Started painting at age four; attended the Art Institute of Chicago; received scholarship to the Art Student's League in New York**
- ★ **Painted Book of Mormon series; covers of LDS magazines; lesson manuals; the World Room in the Manti LDS Temple**
- ★ **Several paintings are displayed in the Museum of History and Art in Salt Lake City and were exhibited in the Immigrant Receiving Station on Ellis Island**

Minerva Teichert was an artist with amazing talent. Her mentor, Robert Henri once asked her, "Has anyone ever told your great Mormon story?" She answered, "Not to suit me." He then proceeded to tell her, "Good heavens, girl, what a chance. You do it. You're the one." Minerva was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Today her best known works are on the covers of LDS magazines, lesson manuals, and her Book of Mormon series can be found at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. She also painted the World Room in the Manti LDS temple, and several of her paintings are displayed in the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City.

Minerva Teichert was born on August 28, 1888 in North Ogden, Utah. Minerva had a true passion for painting. She started painting at four years old when her mother gave her a set of watercolors. At age fourteen, she went to work as a nanny in San Francisco. It was at this time that she was able to observe paintings at such places as the Mark Hopkins Art School. Minerva graduated from Pocatello High School at the age of sixteen. After graduation she taught school in Davisville, Idaho to save money to go to the Art Institute of Chicago. But when she had saved up enough money to attend the art school, her father refused to let her go alone.

As an LDS church missionary she went east with a church group, and she was the first woman to be sent for art lessons with the official blessing of the LDS church leadership. When she arrived in Chicago she studied under John Vanderpoel. She returned home long enough to earn money, and then departed back to Chicago to finish school. When she finished, she returned to Idaho to her own isolated homestead. There she lived by herself and for protection, slept with a revolver under her pillow.

Minerva was courted by two men, one was wealthy and the other was a cowboy, she chose the cowboy whose name was Herman Teichert. She had received a scholarship to the Art Student's League in New York, so before marrying Herman she traveled there to study further. She used various skills to pay her way, such as sketching cadavers for medical schools, illustrating children's books, painting portraits, sharp shooting, and performing rope tricks and Indian dances on the New York stage. Some of her paintings were exhibited in the Immigrant Receiving Station on Ellis Island.

When Minerva returned to Utah she married Herman. She kept books for the ranch, cooked for the hands of the farm, raised five children, and painted. She used her narrow living room as her studio. To get a correct perspective view of her paintings, she looked at her work through the wrong end of a pair of binoculars. She would send her children to bed around 8, and paint until midnight. She loved to paint the western wilderness and she used human figures and work animals as her most common subjects. Women are also prominent in her work. She is truly an amazing Utah woman!